

Blanco Ranger
District
220 E Market Street
Meeker, CO 81641



NICHOLS CREEK TRAIL #1830

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Light

Length: 3.6 miles

Elevation: Starts 9,168 feet and ends 10,760 feet (highest point 10,790 feet)

Elevation Gain: +1,658 feet – 66 feet = +1,592 feet

Access:

- Nichols Creek Trail is located 47.25 miles east of Meeker.
- From Meeker, take State Highway 13 east for 1 mile.
- Where Highway 13 turns north, turn east on Rio Blanco County Road 8 for 18 miles.
- Turn south on Rio Blanco County Road 10 for 2 miles, jog north for 1/4 mile, then east for 10 miles to the South Fork Campground and trailhead.
- Follow the South Fork Trail 16 miles up the South Fork Canyon past Budes Resort to the Nichols Trail junction.
- The trail is accessible from the Colorado River via the Coffee Pot Road, FDR #600 to Budes Resort. The Nichols Creek Trail lies 2 miles from the road up the South Fork Trail.

Trail Highlights:

The Nichols Creek Trail rises steeply for 1 1/2 miles out of South Fork Meadows staying mostly in open areas. The terrain levels off as the trail continues 1/4 mile to the Park Creek junction. From this junction, you gain elevation gradually as the trail continues through open parks bordered by stands of Englemann Spruce for another mile. The last mile of trail travels through stands of beetle-killed spruce until reaching the Lost Solar Trail below Lost Solar Park.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS

- **Cattle:** May be grazing in the area
- **DOGS:** Possessing a dog or other animal that is harassing wildlife or people or damaging property is prohibited. There is no leash law in the Flat Tops, however dogs must be kept under verbal control at all times.
- **TRASH: PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT** -- even biodegradable items like fruit peels!
- Limit group size to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals or less
- **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from trails and water and 6 inches in the soil or pack it out along with toilet paper.

WILDERNESS AREAS are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not renewable resources. Any careless act upsets this natural balance and destroys the beauty found in the Wilderness. By following Wilderness ethics and regulations you can protect and preserve the natural qualities of the Wilderness for future visits. **PLEASE, RESPECT THE LAND AND RIGHTS OF OTHERS**



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